

6.0 Funding Strategies and Partnership Opportunities

This section summarizes possible funding strategies and potential partnership opportunities that may be relevant and applicable based on the conceptual beneficial reuse of dredged sediments to rehabilitate an area of aquatic habitat within Capitol Lake. There are several promising federal and state grants for habitat restoration projects that may be applicable to the conceptual Capitol Lake habitat enhancement work. However, the applicability of these grant or funding programs is highly dependent upon the design and ecological benefits of the dredged material habitat enhancement. These grants are briefly described below, including details on the timing and potential monetary amounts for each grant based on current program information.

6.1 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE COASTAL PROGRAM

The USFWS's Coastal Program is a voluntary, incentive-based program that provides technical and financial assistance to coastal communities and landowners to restore and protect fish and wildlife habitat on public and private lands. The focus of the Coastal Program is priority coastal habitats, including coral reefs, shorelines, marshes, wetlands, uplands, and rivers and streams. Each Coastal Program project is developed strategically in a one-on-one partnership between a local USFWS biologist and the grant recipient. The USFWS biological expertise and field presence help ensure that the program's projects are cost-effective and targeted to benefit important fish and wildlife resources. For this program, the USFWS partners with other federal programs, state agencies, Tribal and local governments, non-governmental organizations, businesses, industries, land trust and non-profit groups, and private landowners.

The Coastal Program process is initiated by calling or sending a letter to the local USFWS Coastal Program coordinator. For additional information on the USFWS Coastal Program, and contact information, refer to the following website: <http://www.fws.gov/coastal/>. The next closing date for applications is September 28, 2013, the end of the Federal fiscal year. USFWS contributions on previous restoration projects through the Coastal Program have ranged between approximately \$16,000 and \$30,000 (http://www.fws.gov/coastal/docs/Coastal_Program_Accomplishments_2010.pdf).

6.2 U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE SPORT FISH RESTORATION PROGRAM

The USFWS's Sport Fish Restoration Program provides grants for projects that restore, conserve, manage, and enhance sport fish, as well as projects that enhance the public's understanding of water resources and aquatic life. Grant funding for this program is available to state governments.

Applicants can apply for grants by contacting their regional Wildlife and Sport Fish Restoration Program (WSFRP) Office. Washington State is part of the Pacific Region – Region 1. Sport Fish Restoration Program grants are distributed on an annual basis. The next deadline for grant applications is August 31, 2013. Grant recipients can receive federal funding for up to 75 percent of their project costs. For 2013, Washington State received over \$7 million in grant money for Sport Fish Restoration work. For additional information on this program, refer to the following website: <http://wsfrprograms.fws.gov/Subpages/GrantPrograms/SFR/SFR.htm>.

6.3 PACIFIC COASTAL SALMON RECOVERY FUND

The Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund (PCSRF) was established to protect, restore, and conserve Pacific salmon and steelhead populations and their habitats. NOAA Fisheries manages the PCSRF program and provides competitive funding to states and Tribes to implement habitat restoration and recovery projects in the Pacific Coast region. This fund was designed to supplement existing state and Tribal programs to promote the development of federal-state-Tribal-local partnerships in salmon recovery and conservation.

An announcement regarding the PCSRF grants is published early each calendar year, outlining requirements and timing for the funding process. In 2013, up to \$65 million was available for PCSRF projects. There are no restrictions on minimum funding requests for projects, but the maximum amount that can be requested by an applicant is \$25 million. State applicants are required to provide a minimum of 33 percent in matching resources for their project. For additional details on the PCSRF, refer to the following website: http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/protected_species/salmon_steelhead/recovery_planning_and_implementation/pacific_coastal_salmon_recovery_fund.html.

6.4 AQUATIC LANDS ENHANCEMENT ACCOUNT

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office's Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account (ALEA) grants are used for the acquisition, improvement, or protection of aquatic lands for public purposes. One of this program's primary goals is re-establishing the natural, self-sustaining ecological functions of the waterfront. Examples of typical ALEA projects include restoring shoreline for salmon habitat, removing bulkheads to restore natural beach functions, restoring an estuary, replacing a waterfront boardwalk, and developing a waterfront park. Eligible applicants include local and state agencies and Tribes.

The Recreation and Conservation Office's Funding Board accepts applications for ALEA projects every 2 years, in even-numbered years. The next closing date for applications is May 1, 2014. For restoration or improvement projects the grant is capped at \$500,000. Grant recipients must provide a minimum 50 percent in matching resources for their project. For additional details on the ALEA grant, refer to the following website: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/alea.shtml>.

6.5 SALMON RECOVERY FUNDING BOARD SALMON RECOVERY GRANTS

The Washington State Salmon Recovery Funding Board awards salmon recovery grants to projects that protect existing, high quality habitats for salmon and that restore degraded habitat to increase overall habitat health and biological productivity. The projects may include the actual habitat used by salmon and the land and water that support ecosystem function and processes important to salmon. The grants are available to local and state agencies, special purpose districts, Tribes, private landowners, non-profit organizations, and regional fisheries enhancement groups.

Grant proposals are submitted to a local lead entity that convenes technical and citizen committees to evaluate and prioritize the projects. The local lead entity for the Capitol Lake project would be the Thurston Conservation District. The proposal must demonstrate how the proposed project addresses the goals and actions defined in the lead entity strategies or regional recovery plans. The lead entity submits a ranked list of projects from its area to the

Salmon Recovery Funding Board for consideration. Grant applications are accepted annually. Application materials are submitted as early in the year as possible to fit the lead entity's schedule for review. There is no cap on grant funding. Grant recipients must provide 15 percent in matching resources for their project. For additional information on the Washington State Salmon Recovery Grants, refer to the following website: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/salmon.shtml>.

6.6 WASHINGTON WILDLIFE RECREATION PROGRAM

The Washington Wildlife Recreation Program (WWRP) provides funding for a broad range of land protection and outdoor recreation, including park acquisition and development, habitat conservation, farmland preservation, and construction of outdoor recreation facilities. The grants are evaluated in 11 categories, including critical habitat, farmland preservation, local parks, natural areas, riparian protection, state lands development and renovation, state lands restoration and enhancement, state parks, trails, urban wildlife habitat, and water access. Habitat creation and enhancement is included under critical habitat, riparian protection, state lands restoration and enhancement, and urban wildlife habitat projects. Eligible grant applicants include local and state agencies, Tribes, special purpose districts, salmon recovery lead entities, and non-profit organizations.

The Washington State Recreation and Conservation Funding Board accepts applications for WWRP grants every 2 years, in even-numbered years. The next closing date for applications is May 1, 2014. WWRP grant caps vary depending on the type of project being proposed. There is no grant cap for critical habitat, riparian protection, and urban wildlife habitat projects. For state lands restoration and enhancement projects, there is a grant cap of \$1 million for a single site. State agencies are not required to provide matching resources for their projects. For additional details on the WWRP, refer to the following website: <http://www.rco.wa.gov/grants/wwrp.shtml#>.

6.7 ESTUARY AND SALMON RESTORATION PROGRAM

The Estuary and Salmon Restoration Program (ESRP) provides grant funding and technical assistance for shoreline restoration and protection projects in Puget Sound. This program is managed by WDFW in partnership with the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office. The ESRP is focused on strategic ecosystem restoration and advances projects that best meet the objectives of regional recovery efforts, including the Puget Sound Nearshore Ecosystem Restoration Project (PSNERP) and the Puget Sound Action Agenda. Based on these objectives, selected projects typically focus on restoring physical ecological processes. In 2011 the restoration of the Deschutes Estuary was put forth as a possible project for consideration under the PSNERP program in a USACE study of potential estuary and nearshore restoration projects in Puget Sound. However, the Deschutes Estuary restoration project was ultimately removed from consideration later on in the selection process. The smaller conceptual dredge project may not be applicable for federal funding under this particular program, but this program is included here as a potential source of funding.

New ESRP project proposals are solicited through a Request for Proposals and evaluated by a multi-disciplinary technical review team composed of members from multiple agencies and organizations throughout Puget Sound. New project proposals are typically requested in the late summer or early fall of even years. The next opportunity for submitting an ESRP project proposal would be late summer or early fall of 2014. ESRP does not have a cap on the amount of funds that can be requested. Grant recipients must provide 33 percent in matching resources

for their project and some of this match must be non-state funds. Previous grant awards have ranged from \$50,000 to \$2.6 million. For additional information on the ESRP, refer to the following website: <http://www.pugetsoundnearshore.org/esrp/index.html>.